

any expedition was actually set on foot. But the time was not wasted, for Richard summoned the loyal gentry and nobles of the country to ride into London with all the retainers that they could muster. He set up his standard on Blackheath, where the rebel camp had so lately been, but where now a large and well-equipped army was rapidly collected.<sup>1</sup> Many lords and gentlemen who had been hiding in the woods, or who had succeeded in fortifying themselves behind the moats of their manor-houses, were glad to obey the first signal of authority. On June 20 the forces collected were already so strong that a plan of operations for the reduction of the South of England was drawn up. Special powers were given to the sheriffs of Kent and Hampshire in their respective counties, while the Earl of Buckingham and Robert Tresilian received similar powers for all England.<sup>2</sup> The King himself was to go with these two into Essex, while the Earl of Kent supported the sheriffs on the south of the Thames. It was not for another fortnight that the Earl of Salisbury received his commission to put down the Eising in Dorset and Somerset.<sup>3</sup>

But before any of these operations in the South actually began, the rising in East Anglia had been subdued by the vigorous initiative of Henry Spencer, the fighting Bishop of Norwich. He was enjoying a holiday in his manor at Burley, in Rutlandshire, when news came that the men of his diocese were in revolt. Without waiting for the instructions or assistance of the London executive, he at once dashed down out of the Midlands into East Anglia, followed by a small but determined band of men-at-arms. He appeared at Peterborough just in time to save the monks of the abbey from falling into the hands of their own serfs. As the chronicler remarks, these rebels had come to destroy the Church, and by the arm of the Church they were destroyed. The Bishop spared none. His blood was up, and he showed the spirit of his brother, the captain of Italian mercenaries. The champion of the Church militant swept on eastwards through Huntingdon and Cambridge counties, the loyalists gathering round him as he went. His presence there was so far effective that rioting ceased from that time forward. He hurried on into Norfolk, the terri-

<sup>1</sup> Wals., ii. 14.

<sup>2</sup> *Calendar of Patent Rolls*. **1381**, pp. 20-3.

\* Boyle's *Official Baronage*, sub. Salisbury, Commission dated July 3.